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PROPERTY OF JORDAN

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation

جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية مستقلة عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية "الراي"

again fails to elect president

April 10 (R) — The Turkish parliament failed today to elect a president for the 25th time in nearly 100 years. With no legislation being discussed or passed until a joint session of the two houses held the 25th anniversary of the death of the late President Fahri Koca seven-year term expired last week. For the first time since 1924, the parliament failed to elect a president. The president must be a senator or deputy, Mr. Justice Party deputy and was nominated by the party, with a minority government. Previous ballots were since no party had proposed a candidate.

number 1330

AMMAN, FRIDAY APRIL 11, 1980 — JAMADI AWAL 26, 1400

Price: Jordan 50 fils; Syria 50 piastres; Lebanon 75 piastres; Saudi Arabia 1 riyal; UAE 1 dirham; Great Britain 25 pence.

Iran exchanges subside ran sends naval e to patrol Gulf

April 10 (R) — Iran sent a naval force to patrol the waters today while reports from its western land indicated that yesterday's artillery exchanges had

announced that a naval unit had been dispatched from southern ports of Abadan and Khorramshahr to the Persian Gulf in readiness for confronting any invasion of our sea

gave no indication of the size of the task force or its mission. Iraq has demanded that Iran evacuate three Gulf islands of Greater and Lesser Tunb and Abu Musa from its territory.

Shahmoud Hadi Shadmeh, chief of staff of the Iranian navy, today denied reports broadcast on state television last night that Iraqi fighters had made an air raid on Iranian ships in Kermanshah province yesterday. The military incidents were limited to artillery exchanges between the border had been calm since yesterday after-

Shadmeh described as exaggerated a report by the official Iranian news agency yesterday saying 15 Revolutionary Guards were killed by Iraqi forces, but he gave no figure for Iranian

In another report from Kermanshah today, saying three Iranian soldiers and 25 wounded in three separate clashes on the

as arriving from the border town of Qasr-e-Shirin about 10,000 Iranians deported by the Baghdad government were crammed into a military camp near the border. The refugees were rounded up in several Iraqi cities a point about five kilometres from the border with Iran. They were told to walk to the frontier, the media.

Border patrols crossing into Iraq to pick up the deportees by Iraqi forces if they switched their car lights on, they

es said they were not allowed to take any belongings. They said that young men of military service age were not allowed to leave with their families.

In Ilam province, the governor of the border town of 2,346 refugees had crossed into Iran in his region, many of them last 24 hours.

dominated Iranian press claimed today that Baghdad had imposed restrictions on prominent Iranian religious leaders to visit the holy cities of Najaf and Kerbala.

in the heart of Iran's oil-producing region, a bomb exploded in a crowded Kuwaiti bazaar, killing one person and wounding several others.

as described the incident as sabotage in a statement. He said they had defused a second bomb in the same area. He said the incident was the scene of dozens of guerrilla bombings claimed by Arab separatists.

ia dissolves three essional syndicates

April 10 (R) — The Syrian government has dissolved three professional syndicates and councils and disbanded the Syrian Union of Journalists and Writers.

He followed a cabinet meeting today in which the general situation in the country was discussed.

He said that the syndicates had been established by the government to control the press and to ensure that the press was loyal to the government.

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An Israeli bulldozer smooths a road across the border inside Lebanese territory on Thursday, the second day of the Israeli incursion into Lebanon. Israeli troops using armoured personnel carriers, set up positions and began patrolling the area on the pretext that their action would stop Palestinian 'raids' into Israel. (AP wirephoto)

Carter disappointed by weak response to 'punish Iran' call

WASHINGTON, April 10

(R) — President Carter disclosed today that he had personally urged European leaders to impose economic sanctions against Iran and break diplomatic relations with the Tehran government because of the hostage crisis.

He said he had been disappointed by the weak response from some countries to his appeal for support of the sanctions he imposed on Monday in an effort to free the 50 American hostages held in Tehran since Nov. 4.

Mr. Carter discussed his plea to European leaders in reply to a question after telling the American Society of Newspaper Editors (ASNE) that some countries had failed to live up to their obligations to the United States while expecting its protection.

He said he had spoken on the telephone to a number of European leaders and asked them to support his efforts to free the hostages by imposing economic sanctions, withdrawing their ambassadors and even breaking relations with Tehran.

Mr. Carter made his calls to European leaders to back up the efforts of the State Department through regular diplomatic channels. He said the U.S. approach had produced effective support in some cases "but on other occasions we have been disappointed."

State Department officials said today that West Germany was withdrawing its ambassador from Tehran and Japan was exploring restraints on trade and develop-

ment loans to Iran.

Norway said earlier today that it was withdrawing its ambassador to Iran for consultations in response to Mr. Carter's appeal.

Speaking of the nine-member European Common Market, which today demanded the release of the hostages but did not call for sanctions, Mr. Carter said: "We have suggested such things as imposition of sanctions as voted by the United Nations Security Council (but vetoed by the Soviet Union in January) and also to withdraw their diplomatic personnel from Iran or decide on the breaking of relations with Iran."

Speaking of allied support for the latest U.S. moves, one State Department official told reporters: "I would say that over the course of a week the actions will be mounting up."

Asked whether allies had been told that the hostage crisis could lead to a disruption of their oil imports from Iran, the official said: "If there were any lingering doubts in their minds about the seriousness with which we view the problem, I think those were probably dispelled by the conversations we had yesterday."

This was a reference to Secretary of State Cyrus Vance's meeting with ambassadors from about two dozen friendly countries.

State Department spokesman David Passage told reporters the Carter administration was not measuring the allies' responses against any U.S. checklist of prop-

osed actions against Iran.

Meanwhile, a group of 40 Iranian diplomats expelled from the United States after President Carter cut off diplomatic relations with Tehran on Monday were given a triumphant welcome when they arrived home early today.

The officials were garlanded with flowers and cheered by a large crowd which waited in the middle of the night at Mehrabad Airport chanting anti-American slogans.

Former Charge d'Affaires Ali Agah told state radio that the State Department had allowed an Iranian official to stay until next Tuesday to wind up embassy business and liaise with the Algerian embassy, which will be handling Iranian interests.

Mr. Agah said Iranians should rejoice at the breaking of ties with the United States and use the opportunity to develop their society politically and economically on an independent basis.

Aides said President Abol Hasan Bani-Sadr was urgently working on plans to counter U.S. economic sanctions and they confirmed that Iran had set up an office in Vienna to make emergency purchases of essential supplies if necessary from neutral and non-aligned countries.

A wide range of political groups have joined the president's call for a huge national unity demonstration in the capital tomorrow to celebrate the breaking of relations with the United States.

Opens up artillery on Sidon Israel entrenches troops in southern Lebanese outposts

BEIRUT, April 10 (Agencies) — Israeli artillery was reported to have opened up on the port of Sidon today as the Lebanese government launched urgent diplomatic efforts to avert fresh bloodshed in war-scarred southern Lebanon.

The Palestinian News Agency (Wafa) said Sidon had come under fire from artillery positions in Israel and a ship of Lebanese territory invaded yesterday by an estimated 350 Israeli troops backed by tanks.

Wafa said some of the bombardment had come from 175 mm guns, the biggest in Israel's arsenal. Telephone communications with the port were cut.

A previous Wafa report attributed the shelling to Lebanese rightist militias backed by the Israelis.

Israeli planes flew low over Sidon earlier today, shattering the sound barrier and sending civilians racing for shelter. In response, Syria sent MiG-21 fighters into Lebanese air space, according to state-run Lebanese radio. No aerial engagements were reported.

Foreign Minister Fuad Butros said he had instructed Lebanon's ambassador at the United Nations to look into the possibility of an urgent Security Council meeting to discuss the tense situation resulting from Israel's incursion.

The Israeli action came two days after five Palestinian commandos slipped through elaborate electronic warning systems to attack Misgav Amm, a border settlement in Upper Galilee. The attackers and three Israelis died in the raid.

Reports from the frontier area said the Israelis had built earth fortifications around their new positions in Lebanon and surrounded them with barbed wire. Bulldozers were cutting roads to link the Israeli outposts. (photo)

The Israelis moved into parts of the area controlled by the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL). It was set up two years ago to supervise the withdrawal of an earlier Israeli invasion force ordered into Lebanon to "crush" the Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO).

Palestinian officers said they believed the Israeli move was in preparation for a new large-scale strike against the commandos.

He said there was "an atmosphere of confrontation" around the village of Al-Tiri, where Israeli-backed rightist militias clashed with Irish peace-keeping troops on two successive days earlier this week. Two Irishmen were wounded, one seriously.

Irish troops surrounded the village after the clashes, trapping 20 militiamen inside. The spokesman said a rightist force trying to move into the village today had been turned back.

"They then brought up two tanks which are in position just 500 metres from the village," the spokesman said. "The situation is tense."

According to the spokesman, rightist militiamen earlier broke into a U.N. observation post and stole a radio set and a car.

Commander Michael Minehane, deputy commander of the Irish U.N. Battalion based in Tibnine, said the U.N. forces were on maximum alert with orders to shoot in self-defence.

"The Israelis have had no contact with us," he said while taking a group of reporters to within one kilometre of the Israeli positions.

In occupied Jerusalem, a U.N. spokesman said Israel sent more troops into southern Lebanon and entrenched them at three outposts set up as a shield against Palestinian attacks.

The spokesman said that by early afternoon, the Israelis had between 300 and 350 troops, 19 tanks and 15 armoured personnel carriers in the rugged border region some eight kilometres inside Lebanon.

Israeli military sources described the incursion as a "defensive measure" against attacks.

Israel's military command insisted the border operation, which began yesterday, was small-scale and that the Israeli troops were in territory controlled

by Lebanese right-wing militiamen under the command of Maj. Saad Haddad.

Bur U.N. spokesman Timor Gaskell said in occupied Jerusalem Israeli troops in an area near the village of Kounine were in territory controlled by Irish troops.

Israel has accused the Irish troops of letting the Palestinian raiders through their lines before Monday's attack.

Mr. Gaskell said other Israeli positions were near the villages of Chagra and Markaba in a line roughly north from Kounine. The spokesman said Israeli bulldozers scratched out connecting paths between the three positions. The troops dug themselves in behind barbed wire and earthworks.

U.N. officials described the incursion as the biggest Israeli thrust into Lebanon since operation Litani was launched two years ago to avenge a Palestinian raid on a highway north of Tel Aviv. It was in the aftermath of operation Litani that the 6,000-

man UNIFIL force was set up. The Israeli command declined to let foreign journalists cross the Lebanese border.

The Associated Press said the Israeli military censor ordered changes in its coverage of this story.

Meanwhile, Britain today deplored Tuesday's Palestinian attack on Kibbutz Misgav Amm in northern Israel but said this did not justify Israel's subsequent incursion into Lebanon.

A foreign office spokesman told reporters: "While we deplore the attack on the Kibbutz at Misgav Amm, which was a bloody and senseless act which can only complicate the search for peace, we cannot regard this as in any way a justification for an Israeli incursion into the Lebanon."

He said that the Israeli-backed troops of Maj. Haddad had constantly frustrated the United Nations peace forces efforts to fulfil its mandate in South Lebanon by preventing their deployment in the border areas.

Sadat indicates readiness to extend autonomy talks beyond May 26 deadline

WASHINGTON, April 10 (R) — Egyptian President Anwar Sadat has indicated he is prepared to extend negotiations with Israel on Palestinian autonomy beyond the May 26 deadline as long as the major issues have been settled.

The president, speaking in televised interviews broadcast today after two days of meetings with President Carter, expressed optimism about the outcome of the talks with Israel, saying agreement could be achieved within hours if both sides showed sufficient dedication.

He said the obstacles facing the talks were not as great as the rift between Egypt and Israel before the 1978 Camp David summit meeting. "We must persevere...I think we shall overcome," he said.

President Sadat said he was prepared to be flexible over the target date and that it would not matter if one or two problems still remained to be solved after May 26.

But failure to achieve a breakthrough in the talks by that date would be very serious, he said.

President Sadat had repeatedly stated before his trip to Washington that a new situation would arise if the May 26 deadline was not met.

In today's interviews he threw the responsibility on Israel for the present deadlock in the talks and said that whether the target date was met would depend on Israel's attitude.

The talks have shown wide differences between the two sides on what type of autonomy should be granted to the 1.2 million Palestinians in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and the Gaza Strip. The Palestinians have taken no part in the talks saying that Egypt, Israel and the United States have no right to determine their future.

President Sadat said he would be ready to attend a new three-way summit in Washington with Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin and President Carter if it proved necessary.

He said Egypt had been ready to send a delegation to Washington for a meeting with Israeli and U.S. officials at the end of this month, but that Israel had turned down the proposal.

Asked if he was prepared to attend a summit himself if such a lower-level meeting took place and succeeded, President Sadat said: "Why not?"

Mr. Begin is due in Washington next week for separate discussions with President Carter on the stalemate talks on Palestinian autonomy.

Mr. Sadat charged that Israel's policy of establishing Jewish settlements on occupied Arab land was against the spirit and the letter of the Camp David accords.

But he said he would not abandon the autonomy negotiations if Israel continued to authorise the settlements.

On other issues, Mr. Sadat was asked whether he was concerned about becoming a lynch pin of a new U.S. strategy in the Middle East when the United States was in dispute with Iran over the American hostages.

He replied: "I am ready to give facilities to the United States whenever they choose to rescue the hostages or to reach any Arab state on the Gulf that needs help against a Soviet invasion or any other invasion." He said Egypt was already providing some facilities to the United States, but he gave no details.

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UN Council adjourns Palestine rights discussion indefinitely

UNITED NATIONS, April 9 (R)—The Security Council heard further statements today on the Palestinian rights question and then adjourned without setting a date for another meeting on the subject.

No resolution has been tabled. Western delegates said they hoped the advocates of self-determination and statehood for the Palestinians would withhold formal proposals until after a scheduled June summit meeting of the European Economic Community.

France has led the way in this group's rising sympathy for the Palestinian cause. Any resolution that would place the Security Council on record as favouring a separate Palestinian state was certain to be opposed by the United States, which has the power of veto.

During the debate today, Jordan's Ambassador to the U.N., Dr. Hazem Nuseibeh, said a Palestinian solution "must be achieved right here in the United Nations, and nowhere else."

Mr. Muhsen Alalini of Yemen denounced the Camp David accords, but said Yemen was not against Egypt. Mr. Mohamed Badjaoui of Algeria called Camp David a "powder keg."

West Bank mayors protest plans to extradite Abu 'Ein

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, April 10 (R)—Arab mayors of towns on the Israeli-occupied West Bank of the Jordan today protested against plans to extradite Mr. Ziad Abu 'Ein to Israel. Mr. Abu 'Ein, 20, is under detention in the United States on suspicion of involvement in a bomb explosion in May in Israel.

The mayors said in a statement published in East Jerusalem newspapers that Mr. Abu 'Ein, from the West Bank town of Ramallah, was not an Israeli citizen and the U.S.-Israeli extradition treaty was therefore inapplicable.

Mr. Abu 'Ein has been granted a stay of the extradition order, the first issued by a U.S. court against a suspected Palestinian commando, pending appeal.

First juvenile court here opens

AMMAN, April 10 (JNA)—Minister of Justice Najib Irshaidat and Minister of Social Development Ibrahim Mufti opened the first juvenile court in Jordan here today.

In a speech on the occasion, Mrs. Mufti pointed out that the success of the court will depend on the role and cooperation of probation officers, who will report to the judge on the general conduct of juvenile delinquents. She also said her ministry is concerned with developing juvenile institutions in the country and is currently conducting a study of juvenile problems and of the regions where most juvenile offences are committed.

Mr. Irshaidat also spoke on the occasion, emphasizing the role of probation officers who, he said, will help the judge in his work.

Dr. Taha Zahran, director of the juvenile department at the Ministry of Social Development, said that the juvenile court will consider only cases pertaining to juvenile delinquents and will make speedy studies of each case without any delay. The court, he said, was set up in coordination between the ministries of social development, justice, and the interior as well as the Public Security Directorate.

During meetings this week of the joint Jordanian-PLO committee for supporting the steadfastness of Arabs in occupied territories, a budget for 1980 was set that includes projects to improve conditions of the Arabs

living under Israeli military occupation.

"The discussions of the budget covered all aspects of life in the occupied territories and how to support the Arab people there," a PLO source told the Jordan Times. "They also studied some projects supported by the joint committee."

The meetings were co-chaired by Minister of State Hassan Ibrahim and by Mr. Hamid Abu Sitta of the PLO's executive committee.

PLO delegation leaves for Syria

AMMAN, April 10 (JT)—A top level delegation from the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) today left here for Damascus after holding week-long discussions with Jordanian officials on the steadfastness of Arabs in the occupied territories.

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32 West bank students arrested, 7 in hospital

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, April 10 (Agencies)—Seven Palestinian students from the occupied West Bank, who were arrested by Israeli troops in Ramallah yesterday, turned up in hospital last night. Twenty five others were in jail after Israeli soldiers broke up a demonstration in which they were taking part, military sources said.

The Arab youths, students at the United Nations Relief and Works Agency teachers training college, were demonstrating to commemorate a massacre of Arab villagers in Deir Yassin, near Jerusalem by Jewish terrorist organisations in 1948.

Several hundred students took to the streets near the college and shouted slogans protesting the occupation. Israeli troops chased the demonstrators, beat up seven students and arrested them. The other 25 were detained for questioning, the military sources said.

At Birzeit University demonstrations were held to commemorate the massacre and express support for two Palestinian mayors who stood trial for allegedly assaulting a policeman. The mayors were acquitted by a Jerusalem court on Tuesday.

An Israeli policeman was cut by a flying rock at the Birzeit demonstration, 15 miles north of

Jerusalem. Students blocked the road with burning tires and a hail of stones, and when troops arrived, the students sought refuge in the university buildings, according to a spokesman for the Israeli West Bank military administration.

Troops evacuated the school in buses, recording the names of the demonstrators as they were removed. The spokesman said they would be called individually for interrogation.

In a girls' school in Ramallah, troops broke up another student demonstration, and there were no reports of injuries or arrests.

Energy-saving ideas, practical recommendations end conference

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN, April 10 — Energy was the main topic of today's closing session of the "Rationalisation of Consumption" conference held at the University of Jordan. The session was chaired by Dr. Wadi Sharaiha, dean of the university's Faculty of Trade and Commerce. On Saturday the theoretical and practical recommendations that came up — during both the presentation of the 26 papers and the discussions they prompted among the participants — will be put into their final form.

The practical aspect of the three-day conference held at the University of Jordan came as a pleasant surprise to a number of the participants who expected it to be more an academic exercise than anything else. Enthusiasm for taking practical action on the issue, though, ran high enough that at yesterday's session people signed up for prospective membership in a voluntary consumer protection society, whose formation was suggested during the conference.

The gathering wisely included not only academics and government officials but also representatives of the private sector. This arrangement gave the latter an informal semi-official atmosphere in which to air their grievances with the government. One particular complaint — the peculiar structuring of customs tariffs which often make it cheaper to import finished goods than to import the raw materials for domestic manufacture — is certain to be contained in the final recommendations.

By the closing session, however, it was evident that more groups ought to have been represented. One participant told the Jordan Times: "A high school graduate could have understood most of the papers presented — one didn't need a PhD. The ideas were good, and pertinent to most of society, but the problem is disseminating them. In retrospect, representatives of the Ministry of Education, the labour unions and the armed forces should have been invited — because students, workers and soldiers need to be informed on the subject. These groups are a large and important part of our population."

The press was also notably absent at the conference. A Ministry of Information official who presented a paper today made no comment when an engineer brought up the frequently occurring problem of incorrect or misleading information relevant to consumption and production in the mass media.

Some participants felt that certain aspects of consumption received short shrift — which may in fact be an indication of the breadth of the conference. One participant, an engineer interested in alternative forms of energy, felt that this morning's discussion on the topic was inadequate. He would like to see another conference on the "Rationalisation of Energy" that would elaborate on papers presented today.

The papers included one by Dr. Marwan Kamal, dean of the university's Faculty of Sciences, who insisted that saving on energy does not mean people should forgo its use for basic services. We must find alternative and cheaper forms of energy, he said, and advise people on ways of reducing con-

sumption without suffering a negative impact on their standard of living.

The Deputy Director of the Jordan Petroleum Refinery Company, Mr. Riad Bushnaq, presented a number of ideas for ways to save energy. He suggested that industrial zones be planned near sources of electricity generation, that the road network be updated, that electric trains and buses be used, that quotas be assigned for individual energy consumption, that use be made of what is now wasted thermal energy and that more efficient and better maintained equipment be used.

Energy costs take up half of the country's domestic revenues and transportation accounts for 40 per cent of the energy consumed, Dr. Ahmad Al Malkawi, acting director of the economic department of the Royal Scientific Society (RSS) pointed out. To lower this percentage he suggested slowly replacing individual vehicles with buses, a study in the near future on the feasibility of using trains in areas of high population density, the more effective use of government cars and teaching drivers how to maintain and use their cars for optimum efficiency.

Mr. Mohammad Qashu' from the RSS gave an exposition of the applications of solar energy in home and industrial heating and air conditioning, pumping water and irrigation. He suggested that customs tariffs be lowered on solar energy equipment or raw materials used in its manufacture, and that banks give low-interest loans for its installation.

Other recommendations on energy included setting government standards for solar energy units and starting training programmes for personnel to man nuclear reactors. At least one private-sector participant expressed his feeling that by the end of the decade the country will have to resort to nuclear energy and it ought to be prepared for it.

At the conference's closing Dr. Tayseer Abdul Jabbar, the under-secretary of the Ministry of Labour, gave a short summary. It aimed, he said, at finding approaches to informing consumers and teaching them discrimination in their buying habits.

in saving on unnecessary expenses and using savings for capital investment.

The public sector, too, should rationalise its expenditures and surpluses for development while creating incentives for saving and investment. Economic gaps between various groups of the population should be closed and productivity should be increased.

He also gave a short description of aspects of the problem of consumption. Expenditure on consumption is 90 per cent of the gross domestic product, he said, and has led to limited savings and capital formation. The deficit in the balance of trade was JD 550 million in 1979; consumer imports accounted for 40 per cent of the total. Money supply has been increasing by about 29 per cent a year, but has not been accompanied by an equivalent increase in production.

Furthermore, he said, new patterns of "excessive expenditure" on cars, houses and luxury goods have emerged among a small section of the population. Finally, he pointed out what he termed a "weakness that calls for treatment": that the service sector is twice as large as the productive sector of Jordan's economy.

Recommendations coming out of the conference, he said, will aim at reconsidering priorities in the national economy in the next five-year plan, increasing agricultural and industrial production, encouraging savings and private investment and promoting social stability through the fair distribution of income.

Particular recommendations of the conference that he named were: placing higher tariffs on luxury goods, reorienting bank credit more towards productive enterprises, encouraging cooperative societies, establishing parallel consumer markets, continuing price controls and linking prices to wages, standardising packaging and encouraging scientific research, especially in agriculture.

He gave thanks to the prime minister who initiated the conference, Dr. Sharaiha who planned it and who heads the conference's follow-up committee and Dr. Nasereddin Al Assad, president of the university.

Local News Briefs

AMMAN, April 10 (JNA) — A West German parliamentary delegation is due here on Sunday for a five-day visit to Jordan. The 24-member delegation, to be led by the speaker of the Lower Saxony Parliament, will inspect Palestinian refugee camps, to looking into the various public services they receive from the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian refugees (UNRWA). They will also visit UNRWA's teacher training institutes and vocational training centres.

AMMAN, April 10 (JT) — Jordan and Iraq are reported making a study preliminary to a joint project to develop the port of Aqaba, making it one of the largest in the Arab region. A report in Al Rai newspaper published today said that after the completion of the project Iraq will import most of its goods through Aqaba and increase its imports of Jordanian phosphate to 1.5 million tonnes a year. It said officials from both countries will meet in Baghdad in the next two days to put the final touches to the plans. Jordan's team of officials will be led by Minister of Transport Ali Subeimat, the paper said.

AMMAN, April 10 (JNA) — A two-day seminar on training Arab scouts and promoting the scout movement in the Arab World opened here today at Al Hussein Youth Centre. Minister of Culture and Youth Taher Hikmat opened the sessions with a speech in which he underlined the importance of spreading the scout movement among Arab youth. Another speaker was Mr. Samih Iskandar from the Jordanian Youth Organisation, who outlined to the seminar the government's role in promoting scouting in the country and the facilities it offers scouts and guides. Participants from Jordan, Tunisia, Syria, Palestine, Qatar, Morocco and the Oman will be discussing a general plan for training scouts and guides in the Arab World for the years 1981 through 1983.

GOOD NEWS to the people of Aqaba

The opening of the Vienna Flower Shop. Flowers, plants, flower arrangements. Decoration of wedding cars and all types of decorative flowers.

Jordan Week Calendar

(Week of April 11-17)

EXHIBITIONS

SATURDAY, April 12: The Haya Arts Centre and the Spa Cultural Centre present an exhibition of 150 canvas copies of paintings by Goya at the Haya Arts Centre theatre. The opening of this exhibition is at 5:00 p.m., and it will remain on display to the general public for the next five days during regular hours.

*** Also opening this Saturday at the Haya Arts Centre, the Ghazi Arabiyat Hall, is an exhibition of paintings by three Jordanians, Christine Naser, Naser Juha and Shuruk Hamd. This exhibition will be on display during regular hours for days.

TUESDAY, April 15: The French Cultural Centre, in cooperation with the Department of Culture and Arts, presents an exhibition of collages by Alecco Saab. The exhibition will be opened at 5 p.m. and will continue until April 18 during regular hours.

FILMS

The French Cultural Centre presents a festival of films. Claude Chabrol running for three nights and starting at 7:30 each night. The films being shown are as follows:

FRIDAY, April 11: A 1968 production entitled "La Femme infidele" starring Stephane Audran, Michel Bouquet, Maurice Ronet.

SATURDAY, April 12: "Que la bete meure" 1969 starring Michel Duchaussoy, Jean Yanne, Caroline Collier and Ag Fejja.

SUNDAY, April 13: "Les Noces rouges" (1973) starring Stephane Audran, Michel Piccoli and Claude Pieplu.

All three films reflect Chabrol's forte which is his representation of the ordered, and often disordered world of bourgeoisie. The films showing in the festival all revolve around cases of infidelity and murder, giving an added dramatic quality to the theme of the eternal triangle.

TUESDAY, April 15: The Goethe Institute presents a film Reinhard Hauff entitled "Mathias Kneissl" (1971) starring R. Brenner, Ruth Drexl, Eva Mattes and Hanna Schygulla. The film is the true story of a Bavarian poacher who was hanged in Munich in 1902. It is in colour with English subtitles, and starts at 8:00 p.m.

*** At the British Council, the first Shakespearean film featuring the Royal Shakespeare Company is showing at 6:00. The film is "A Midsummer Night's Dream" starring Judi Dench, David Warner, Dianna Rigg, Barbara Jefford, Ian Richardson, Ian Holm, Derek Godfrey, Paul Rogers and Bill Tanner, directed by Peter Hall.

LECTURES

SUNDAY, April 13: Dr. Mohammad Aman, UNESCO consultant to the Ministry of Information and dean of the library science at the University of Wisconsin in Milwaukee give a lecture on micrographics and their use in industrial storage and retrieval in business, industry, government archives. The lecture will begin at 5:00 p.m. at the Department of Libraries, Documentation and National Archives located on the fourth floor of the New Insurance Building, Third Circle, Amman.

MONDAY, April 14: Dr. Robert Smith of Wooster College, Ohio will be speaking about the excavations at Pella in the Jo Valley. Occupation at the site spans all periods from the Neolithic to the Islamic; Dr. Smith has worked there since 1967. 6:30 at the British Council.

ARCHAEOLOGY FIELD TRIP

FRIDAY, April 25: The Friends of Archaeology will be making a field trip to Iraq Al Amir. The trip will be led by Mr. Farid Larche, resident architect with the French Archaeological Institute, who has been restoring the Hellenistic temple at the Meet at 8:30 a.m. outside the Department of Antiquities Restoration Centre.

WHAT'S GOING ON

French Film Festival

The French Cultural Centre presents a film by Claude Chabrol entitled "La Femme infidele" (1968) starring Stephane Audran, Michel Bouquet and Maurice Ronet. The film starts at 7:30 p.m., and is subtitled in Arabic.

NOTICE

AMERICAN WOMEN OF AMMAN

Crazy Hat luncheon will be catered at JD 2,500 per person, instead of potluck.

Please call 64038 or 41582 by Friday, April 11 for reservations.

Hotel Intercontinental ballroom
Monday, April 14 at 11:30 a.m.

Handwritten signature: *محمد علي*

J.S. Middle

Following is the text of an address to the Organisations at Indiana University, Bloomington, Indiana, Dr. Elmer Berger, president of "American Jewish Zionism."

published autobiographical odyssey through the last of American political history. (In Search of History, 1978). Theodore White describes John Kennedy's were, "he says, "men brought up to believe, either at d, that whatever Americans wished to make happen

generally — and to some extent the leadership of the world" — shared this prevailing mood of what has melot.

tion from this confidence and America's assurance of motivations to self-doubt and what Jimmy Carter, a p, described as "malaise" is probably the most sig in any appraisal of international relations and prob in the world today. And because the Middle East — ican phrase-makers now call "southwest Asia" — is yost dangerous flashpoint in the world, American 1 reaction to recent developments there dramatises amelot to threatened Armageddon.

Carter's "doctrine"

NG American strategy, reflecting the altered Ameri-od was reflected by Mr. Carter in his State of the on Jan. 23. He first identified the Middle East and as a "vital interest" of the United States. He said: any outside force to gain control of the Gulf region d as an assault on the vital interests of the United e reflected by use of any means necessary, including

like the old gung-ho of the Kennedy days. Mr. Clark d gumshoe huckster of anyone's Washington interests remains obtainable, underlined Carter's bravado a New Delhi. The man who minimised the importance t oil as he persuaded Truman to endorse Zionist troleum in 1947-48, told the new Indian prime minis- "must know that if part of their plan is to move rian Gulf it means war."

tion of part of the Carter message was immediately east Clifford's credibility was put very much in doubt statements of the secretary of defence and the sec-

re President deliberately sent a fossil-like Clifford indians the new American rapprochement with Pakis- regarded as a threat to India, or whether the little as is still thrashing around in the murky verbiage of n Jordan and Jody Powell, to say nothing of Stuart ins one of the top secrets of the White House. If, s, she is not telling; and erstwhile gum-chewing. Any ed to slip quietly out of range of the television

dent's Jan. 23 message to Congress was more reve-lection year clowning by Carter's emissaries and media. To discuss the present disorder in the Middle e American reactions, it is necessary to turn to some even less amplified paragraphs of that statement. The e several salient observations, all of which clearly mprehension of the "powerlessness" of American adequately with events we are witnessing today from Morocco confrontation in Western Africa to the o meet what he called "the radical and aggressive new viets in Afghanistan. Carter said, "demands the par-ose who rely on oil from the Middle East and are global peace and stability."

int he said, "we will further strengthen political and h other nations in the region."

in, Carter expressed the belief "that there are no differences between us and any Islamic people. We- of Islam, and are ready to cooperate with all Muslim

"we will continue to work," according to Carter, "as dle East and Southern Africa — to resolve regional il continue to build our ties with developing nations, elping to strengthen the national independence they o achieve. And we will continue to support the acy and human rights."

was baptised "the Carter Doctrine". It was advertised e of both policy and strategy for the Middle East. reflect the possibility of a welcome and desirable e American posture. Respect for the national self- and independence of the smaller nations of the id appears now to be recognised as an indispensable y strategy to safeguard American interests in those

ent is accurate, which is to say if the President's words cosmetics, this represents a departure from the abul- establishing bases, of spreading multinational cor- anipulating or attempting to manipulate local puppets al political structures of these turbulent societies so press their own populations and serve as proxies for

riefs mittedly optimistic assessment. The optimism must be e spectacle of a Congress which reserved its loudest e messages in the address which promised bigger bangs in the armament budget. For it is not yet clear the e understand this is a world in which it is no longer e Americans wished to make happen would happen."

whatsoever the ultimate disposition of this gap of e what the President seemed to be saying, on the l what the Congress—thinking it reflected the sen- e people — wanted to hear, on the other hand, for almost a his Presidency, Carter raised a standard. And since asised, we are entitled to examine American efforts dle East's oldest and most stubborn problem by the down by the nation's chief executive of foreign policy.

Vital interests

some inventory should be made of what the Pres- ed as "vital interests". Repeatedly, he spoke of "oil" ovement of Middle East oil". It is important that both d its "free movement" command Carter's attention. It isturbing that Mr. Carter made this specification as if it g his administration had just discovered.

did exposition would have observed that Middle East d United States governments — as differentiated from political advisers during the past thirty years — have e President since Truman that American support of d aspirations in the Middle East was jeopardising the sts in and access to Middle East oil. The earliest warn- 947 and 1948. They were motivated more by concern e investments in the exploration for and sale of this oil. indispensable to the economic well-being, perhaps even n, of the United States and its allies among the indus- is of the world. Despite the sick denials of such as n, Lyndon Johnson and Arthur Goldberg, not to dical scavengers in Congress. American support of e area was inconsistent with our interests in the area's e these interests were profits or survival. That incon- ast now in the open for the consideration of the Ameri-

tion which follows from this belated disclosure is that e templated to protect this vital interest with a military e area, the myth of the Zionist state as the linchpin of western defence of the area is shattered. Israeli milit- applied by the United States administrations which may e Israel as some kind of ally to defend U.S. and western e possessed efficacy for the production or delivery of il. e American motivations for supplying the Zionist state so h military largesse was to provide the means of pro- e while it contemptuously rejected those international eich might have legitimated its existence.

h three decades Israel has rejected or ignored both e mandates to make the geopolitical and demographic hich even its so-called friends believe would have

East non-policy: Elmer Berger speaks out

ended, or at least greatly mitigated the hostility of neighbouring states and peoples. U.S. economic and military support subsidised this defiance. The explanation that these subsidies were justified because Israel offered defence of American and democratic interests was pure humbug. A less charitable, more sinister interpretation of United States motives for indulging the Zionist state is that the recipient was always only too eager to knock about any progressive Arab leader who threatened to nourish Arab national self-consciousness which, in turn, might disrupt the steady flow of all benefits derived from a debilitated, colonised and exploited Arab World. The exploits of Israeli arms and intelligence operations to support *status quo* powers in a world "revolution of rising expectations", to use Adlai Stevenson's eloquent phrase, are well known. They have extended from Syria, Iraq and Iran in the north, through Nasser's Egypt to the one-time colonies of France in Africa and on into South Africa.

Leaving aside even the injustices endured by Arabs by the imposition of Zionism on Palestine, the sycophancy of the Zionist state to the former colonial and present *status quo* powers made certain the incompatibility of Israel with the emergent societies in the other states of the area. That basic incompatibility is dramatically visible today in the marriage of convenience between the most reactionary elements in Lebanon and the hyper-ethnocentric government of Menachem Begin.

Mr. Carter discovers Islam

THE PREDOMINANT religious faith of the people in this area — and in our secular society we sometimes find it difficult to comprehend the depth and tenacity of religious commitment in other civilisations — is Islam. Mr. Carter may believe — or been told he should say he believes — "there are no irreconcilable differences between us and any Islamic people". With this inaccurate preface he expressed readiness "to cooperate with all Muslim countries". What he was really doing was asking for the cooperation of Muslim countries with the United States.

But on both counts the President's statement was simplistic. He did not know — or was not told — that the Islamic Conference which held an emergency meeting in Islamabad in January, had been founded a decade ago to present a united Muslim front of reaction against the United States for its open-ended support of Israel. That conference was attended by even the hard-line, "rejectionist" Arab states opposing the Camp David formula for resolving the Palestine issue. It produced an explicit denunciation of Soviet actions in Afghanistan. But the conferees were careful that the indictment of the Soviet Union *not* be construed as any infatuation with the United States. Only strong action by Saudi Arabia prevented equally explicit criticism of this country.

The Palestinians

BUT NOT ONLY predominantly Muslim nations from other civilisations take a less than indulgent view of historic American attitudes towards what Mr. Carter called "Islamic people" and with whom he said "there are no irreconcilable differences". Of course, Mr. Jordan, Mr. Powell and Mr. Eizenstat may not know the Palestinians are predominantly Muslim; or, it may be the White House super-intellects still refuse to accept the facts of history and the judgment of the majority of the world's nations and continue to deny the Palestinians are a "people". For certainly, on this most crucial point of the peace agenda for Palestine the administration's public posture is one of unreconciled differences. Contemplating an election year with trepidation — despite the upward surge in the polls generated by his bravado rhetoric about Afghanistan — Mr. Carter is still waltzing around the issue of the Palestinians to the tune of the deliberately ambiguous "autonomy" framework. The much-heralded "peace process" is stalled after eight months of futile negotiations over the political future of the Palestinians. Mr. Linowitz needed intense briefing about the Middle East before actively assuming the role of Mr. Carter's "special envoy", succeeding hype-artist Robert Strauss who also needed intense briefing. Mr. Linowitz is spasmodically up and down. On one trip he warns it is unlikely any agreement about the Palestinians will be reached before May, the date for such an agreement specified in the Egyptian-Israeli treaty. On another trip, after a Washington briefing which probably focused more on Mr. Carter's political future than that of the Palestinians, Mr. Linowitz became almost ecstatic. All of this, of course, is taking place without any Palestinian representation.

Among other reasons the Palestinians are absent is that the Camp David scenario ignored the existence of Palestinian "peopleness". It avoided repeating the description "refugees". It addressed itself only to the Palestinians living under Israeli occupation in the territories Israel acquired by war in 1967. It was silent about the fundamental human right of repatriation. It ignored the discrimination practised against non-Jewish people. Palestinian nationals living in the so-called Israeli democracy where Zionist legislation officially makes "Jewish people" nationals more equal than others, to use the Orwellian phrase. No acceptable provisions are suggested for the Palestinians who live as exiles from Zionism in countries other than Palestine. Israel, Egypt and Jordan are to design the political framework within which the Palestinians are supposed to find "self-determination". And the United States, still tilting toward Mr. Begin's idea of human rights and generosity, is to be an arbiter in the cooking of this witches' brew.

Mr. Linowitz's latest enthusiasm, after over-seeing an Egyptian-Israeli negotiating session at the end of January, was inferentially deflated by *The New York Times* which has been less than distinguished in advocating alternatives to the Camp David scenario. The *Times* report noted that "Egypt and Israel had reached a settlement of 16 or 17 categories of responsibilities and powers to be exercised by an autonomous authority representing more than a million Palestinians living under Israeli occupation." The report continued that United States officials "would not specify these categories, but they were understood to include some less critical activities such as education." More critical, according to *The Times* — and "principal obstacles in the talks" — are "security, land, water and the status of the Arab residents of Jerusalem."

What is really at stake is whether or not the present negotiations will provide for an eventual Palestinian sovereignty. One Palestinian intellectual, a member of the PLO Executive, has put the Palestinian demand simply and without belligerence, even if he used rather emotional terms. We want a flag and a passport of our own, he said... The Egyptians want whatever "autonomy" means to include legislative and judicial authority. Israel is insisting that whatever collective body is devised for Palestinian "representation" should be limited to administrative responsibilities. And the present government, richly subsidised by the United States, vows there will never be an independent Palestinian state anywhere between the Mediterranean and the Jordan River.

Interests and morals

FOR A LONG TIME, the impasse over the Palestinians seemed to obstruct only an Israeli/Zionist/Arab and Palestinian settlement. Few Americans were prepared to agree with veteran Middle East watchers that a continuation of the no-war/no-peace condition in Palestine had more extensive impact on American interests. Neither the media nor the United States government were eager to point to wider ramifications. As long as the Palestine problem was perceived to be isolated from vital American interests, it could be addressed — and then only spasmodically between electoral "silly seasons" — in moral terms. In this context of pious morality the Zionists had brain-washed much of the world with the syndrome that historic discriminations against Jews justified Zionist acquisition of Palestine. If injustice to "the Arabs" resulted, it was of a lesser degree than what Jews had endured. If Arabs were displaced, so the reasoning went, they had vast lands in which to absorb those excluded by Zionism's exclusivist nationality designed for what it called "the Jewish people". This morality of relativism was often buttressed with legalisms which, for the most part, ignored the guarantees of Arab or Palestinian rights written into every significant legal instrument constructed to resolve the Zionist-Palestinian confrontation.

The so-called "Carter Doctrine" — born of desperation occasioned by crumbling American influence in this vitally important area of the world — had modified all this. It has not eliminated the morality. Though the President skirted the issue, the confluence of fundamental forces has compelled the United States to respect the moralities in order to implement a strategy which could assure the security of its interests. For it has been publicly confessed that, for all its power, the United States cannot successfully confront the Soviet Union in the Middle East, or what is now called by many, Southwest

Asia. And our allies in Europe and Asia are reluctant to join any meaningful show of force. Observers of the international scene from every segment of the American political spectrum have made the point. From Felix Kessler in *The Wall Street Journal*, to James Reston of *The New York Times*, to the *Los Angeles Times* and *The Washington Post* a consensus agrees response from American allies has been verbally satisfactory but disappointing in substance.

A variety of reasons is offered. Suspicion that Carter has indulged in some of his customary hyperbole to describe the extent of the danger precipitated by the Soviets in Afghanistan, trade, a greater feeling of necessity for detente and greater dependence upon Middle East oil are some of the ingredients making for European-Japanese coolness to the so-called "Carter Doctrine". But it has remained for a number of Americans, not without distinction as expert analysts of world affairs, to point to a central reason for the less than buoyant reception which American allies gave the President's strategic game-plan. Realising that the United States could not "go it alone", Carter unveiled the plan to bolster Pakistan's military establishment. Then he added, "we will further strengthen political and military ties with other nations in the region." The purpose of these manoeuvres, he said, is "to shape a cooperative security framework that respects differing values and political beliefs, yet enhances the independence, security and prosperity of all."

Mr. Carter and Dr. Brzezinski discovered early on that this was easier said than done. For the states of the region are predominantly Muslim; and the states most relevant to Mr. Carter's proposals are Arab.

Remembering "the Arabs"

THE UNITED STATES is hurting now from a too-long prolonged dearth of knowledge and understanding of the Arab World. Recently, Saudi Arabia has been grudgingly admitted — publicly — to the fraternity of the "good guys" according to membership requirements established by the august legislative bodies of the House of Representatives and the Senate. But the Saudis have been less than enthusiastic about allowing the United States to establish military bases in Saudi territory. And Mr. Sudat, rather ostentatiously currying favour with the United States, performed less than a service for the patron he hopes to woo permanently — with dowry — by condemning the Saudis for their less than total servility to the United States, particularly for the divisive Egyptian-Israeli treaty. The United States rejected the offer of bases by both Egypt and Israel. The rejection was some indication the Washington policy-architects are less than sure the much-ballyhooed treaty is really a step toward a peace which would be acceptable to the Arabs. On Jan. 25, Kuwait, Iraq, the PLO and the United Arab Emirates all expressed varying degrees of opposition to the so-called "Carter Doctrine".

The expanding influence of Iraq is a little known and less publicised explanation for the reservations expressed by these so-called "conservative" states which are also the maritime powers on the very Gulf Mr. Carter is so determined to protect. The departure of the Shah and the disestablishment in Iran of a stable regime which, as Henry Kissinger has lamented, did everything we asked him to do in the last 25 years, has left Iraq — not Saudi Arabia — as the most powerful military force in the Gulf. It has the sixth largest known reserves of oil in the world; and new assessments by the British, if proven accurate, could make it the owner of the second largest, after Saudi Arabia... Iraq is probably the most secular-minded government in the area. It has not hesitated to use its oil for the advancement of its political objectives as well as for internal development programmes. But Washington has paid little attention to Iraq since the revolution in 1958. Not least among the reasons for this neglect is that the Iraqis have maintained a consistent "pro-westernist" line with respect to Israel. Baghdad was the locale for the "rejectionist front" meetings following the Camp David seizure, and the signing of the Egyptian-Israeli treaty. Washington's concern with those meetings was confined first to attempting to persuade the Saudis not to participate, then to expressing surprise that the Saudis did attend, and finally to mumbling some expressions of gratitude to the Saudis for exerting a "moderating influence" on the deliberations. Both (Iraq and Saudi Arabia) share an intense — if different — consciousness of "Arabism". A determination to maintain independence and to prevent domination by either of the so-called superpowers is an important aspect of this ethnic loyalty. Iraq is encouraging greater Saudi independence from the United States and its leaders feel that fundamental forces in the area will lead the Saudis more and more into the kind of neutrality and Arab-centred orientation which are the essential guidelines of Iraqi policy.

All this complicates Mr. Carter's neat blueprint for a "cooperative security framework". Many today believe Mr. Carter has made the serious mistake of trying to fit these newly emergent states into some still undemonstrated necessity to revive the cold war of the 1950s. Those who subscribe to this evaluation think also he has attempted to revive the black-and-white labels employed by John Foster Dulles. If you are not with us, you are against us, he seems to be saying to nations — including some of our traditional allies — who have learned in the decade of the 70s to say "a plague on both houses" of the classical cold-war ideologues.

The relevance to Palestine

ALL THIS IS importantly relevant to the turbulence in the Middle East, with reverberations throughout the entire Muslim world. The Carter self-congratulatory message to Congress contained none of this contextual information. And lacking this context, the President's dogmatic assertion that recent Soviet actions are "the most serious threat to world peace since the Second World War" sounds to many like just more of his Georgian hyperbole. Other observers have noted the more sophisticated, more precise, more explanatory ingredients of both the crisis and the corresponding substance for any commensurate American response.

George Ball, for example, is hardly a promising American commissar. In a brilliant article in *Foreign Affairs* he appropriately avoids pejorative descriptions of Syria and Iraq as "communist" or even "communist-controlled". More accurately, he describes them as "activist nations". They are "activist" in pursuit of their own perceived national interests. Given *status quo* American mentality, this activism is more of a problem for the United States than for them. Mr. Ball then offers this advice:

"Prior to 1973, it was possible for the United States to pursue a policy of compliance toward Israel with only marginal concern for its own interests. Since the rise of OPEC as a major factor in world affairs, America's interests have become vitally and directly involved in a speedy settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict... Unless we make prompt and serious progress toward solving the Palestinian problem, we can expect to see our energy needs increasingly hostage to our Middle East policies. Once it is clear that the Camp David talks have ground to a halt with no progress on a Palestinian solution and we have launched no new negotiating initiative, the more activist Arab states will bring enormous pressure on Saudi Arabia to use its oil production for political purposes. Anyone who believes the Saudis can easily resist that pressure does not understand the significance of what occurred at the Baghdad meeting of 1978, when the Saudis were reluctantly forced to go along with a decision to cut off subsidy funds for Egypt."

Mr. Yamani seemed to be reflecting Mr. Ball's prognosis in an address to a meeting of European business leaders in Switzerland on Feb. 7. *The New York Times* reports that the Saudi minister of petroleum said: "Cooperation on energy questions would be destroyed by failure to resolve the Palestinian conflict with Israel peacefully."

In a widely reproduced newspaper column, George Ball was more explicit than in the *Foreign Affairs* article. "We must repair our shaky political relations in the area", he wrote, "since we cannot defend the eastern shore of the Gulf without the full cooperation of the Arab states on the western shore. That means we can no longer doltishly ignore the prime political reality of the Palestinian issue... We cannot realistically expect those Arab nations to risk close identification with us by giving us bases on their soil or cooperating in military planning while we continue to subsidise Israeli colonialism on the West Bank and the Gaza Strip and condone by inaction the Begin government's cynical efforts to absorb those areas. Let there be no mistake about it: so long as we delay a frontal attack on the Palestinian issue, we are alienating the whole Muslim world..."

For an ex-Wall Street lawyer and under-secretary of state to label Israeli expansionism as "colonialism" is a refreshing and clarifying departure. The author's stature and responsibility should expedite penetration of the Zionist semantical mist about "security" and Begin's theological mumbo-jumbo about God's biblical promises to Begin's dubious claim to descent from Father Abraham.

Ball's advice is no solo performance among knowledgeable Americans. No more than George Ball is an embryonic commissar is *The Wall Street Journal* aspiring to become a second *Izvestia*. On Jan. 18, before enunciation of the so-called "Carter Doctrine", the *Journal's* literate and informed Karen Elliott House observed that it was necessary for the Carter administration to have "a diplomatic strategy" because, quoting an unidentified "Pentagon official," "a military presence cannot compensate for diplomatic inadequacies... Among other things," Ms. House continued, "this means progress toward an Arab-Israeli settlement that will allow the United States to improve its relations with such Arab nations as Iraq, the world's second largest oil exporter."

And finally, Anthony Lewis of the politically centrist *New York Times*, wrote on Jan. 10, "for the West as a whole, security now requires progress in the Palestinian question. It is an essential element in the political confidence needed to make any American military move in the Gulf effective."

The Palestinians and the PLO

IN THIS PRESENTATION I have deliberately addressed strategic issues. The tactical requirements which would make Mr. Carter's Jan. 23 generalisations effective are, by this time in the Palestinian debate, well known. The first of these is recognition of the PLO as the only, competent representative of the Palestinians, who must now be recognised as "a people" displaced or subjected to occupation and discrimination by Israel's Zionist criteria for full nationality. Israel must withdraw from all territory "acquired by war", in conformity with the Charter of the United Nations and consistent with the authentic meaning of Resolution 242. Once these two fundamental are agreed, there can be mutually agreed negotiations among equals to create the security and political independence of all states in the area, which is the stated objective of the much-quoted but often abused language of the famous resolution. Such negotiations may include mutually agreed rationalisations of permanent borders and also the resolution's specifically mentioned "demilitarised zones".

Quo vadis Washington?

THE CAMP DAVID formula gave only lip service to the broad, strategic considerations necessary to stabilise the Middle East. The Egyptian-Israeli treaty is therefore largely irrelevant to the stability and freedom from cold-warring desired by virtually all states in the area. Because the Zionist state has profited most from the area's continuing instability it has attempted to interpret even that irrelevant treaty in the narrowest possible terms. Because, despite Sudan's often extravagant rhetoric, there is little possibility that Egypt can or really wants to shed its Arabism, Sadat has, in effect, tried to make a silk purse out of a sow's ear.

Because American politicians have been historically intimidated by an undemonstrated — and undemonstrable — Zionist capacity to deliver what is vulgarly called "the Jewish vote", our so-called leaders have told less than the truth about the relationship of energy to an American policy on Palestine which would be determined by justice and law rather than by mendacious, ward-heeling politics. Because most of our allies are now free of this myth of Zionist power and of slander about political unanimity among Jews determined by commonly held commitments to Zionism and its Middle Eastern state, they have received Mr. Carter's "doctrine" with more than a little scepticism. One certain reason is that the President ignored the problem to which such independent Americans as George Ball, Anthony Lewis, *The Wall Street Journal* and many anti-Zionist Americans, including Jews, have now pointedly called attention.

Most of American's allies are dubious, because of history, that in an election year a United States government will demonstrate the necessary political fortitude to "unravel the tangled skein which intertwines our interests with Israel's", to quote George Ball still again. What needs to be done is almost diametrically opposed to what, in its inflated ego, the Zionist state thinks is in its interests, however short-sighted and fundamentally mistaken this Zionist thinking may be. Mr. Carter gave no hints of any effort to untangle the web that has been sedulously woven over so many years.

There are those who believe that once the election of 1980 is over, if Mr. Carter wins, he will revert to a less circuitous pursuit of the encouraging evidence suggested by his earliest pronouncements in 1977. The facts are that, despite his indulgences of Israel and his sycophantic courting of Mr. Begin in the Camp David so-called "process", a measurable number of Israelis and American Zionists do not trust the President. They do not trust him precisely because they know, better than the American people, that there is a wide — and widening — gap between past American coddling of the Zionist state and the fundamental, vital strategic and economic interests of the United States. The mistrust surfaced in some self-righteous complaints by American Zionists against Ezer Weizman's gratuitous endorsement of Carter in the current American election sweepstakes. Mr. Weizman may coo like a dove in Washington. But in Israel he acts like any political amoeba, spreading protoplasm on all sides of any road to inject everything from the annexationists to the expediential "peaceniks". And Washington, still toying with the superficialities of the Palestine problem, creates a Hobson's choice for itself, secretly hoping for the demise of Mr. Begin — or at least his government — and hoping the suave Mr. Weizman might prove to be a more pliable successor. So, more suspicious American observers may speculate that Mr. Begin's government called on its more docile minions in the United States to express outrage at Weizman's ballot for Carter.

But in the long pull it is good that all this is surfacing. Nothing is so supportive of a democracy as to let the people know; and in American Middle East policy-making, the suppression of knowledge, or its distortion or deliberate misrepresentation, has gone on too long. Mr. Carter did talk on Jan. 23 as if, at long last, American and Western industrial-world interests would dictate strategy. If that is so, proper American tactical bits which need to be fitted together to achieve a peace will follow.

LOCAL EXCHANGE RATES

U.S. dollar	307.00/309.00
U.K. sterling	669.90/673.90
West German mark	162.30/163.30
Swiss franc	172.50/173.50
French franc	70.40/70.80
Italian lire	
(for every 100)	34.90/35.10
Japanese yen	
(for every 100)	121.80/122.50
Dutch guilder	148.60/149.50
Swedish crown	70.10/70.50
Belgian franc	101.10/101.70

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Aqaba	19 28
Deserts	15 27
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Economic News Briefs

Bahrain's drydock loses attraction

BAHRAIN, April 10 (R)—Fears about Iran and an increase in insurance rates for ships entering the Gulf last month hit the Arab world's huge drydock here, the Arab Shipbuilding and Repair Yard company (ASRY) said today.

Shipowners tried to reduce the amount of time their vessels were in the Gulf by having repairs done in the Far East or Europe rather than at the drydock in Bahrain. ASRY General Manager Antonio Machado Lopes told Reuters in an interview.

As a result, only 85 per cent of the 500,000 deadweight ton drydock's capacity was used last month compared with 100 per cent in January and February, he said. But 92 per cent is booked this month and 100 per cent next month he added.

ASRY is owned jointly by the members of the Organisation of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries (OAPEC). Opened in 1977, it was conceived by OAPEC as a project that would encourage wider economic and social cooperation among Arab countries rather than a purely financial investment.

While the aim is to make a profit eventually, Mr. Machado Lopes said the company made a small loss last year and expects another marginal loss this year. He declined to give figures. ASRY financial manager Redha A. Faraj, however, said the company's ship repair revenues rose to \$18 million last year and were 40 per cent higher than projected the previous year. He forecast revenues would rise to \$21 million this year.

Mr. Machado Lopes disclosed that ASRY's drydock last year handled 120 ships totalling 22 million deadweight tons, with 75 per cent of the total huge oil tankers. OAPEC chose Bahrain as the site for its drydock partly because of its situation close to the main routes used by tankers heading for Gulf oil supply terminals.

That geographical advantage has proved attractive to tanker owners in the face of slightly lower repair rates at Singapore yards. Mr. Machado Lopes said. The Bahrain drydock ran at 94 per cent of capacity last year compared with 86 per cent in 1978. Mr. Machado Lopes added.

OAPEC's original choice of Bahrain was not accepted by Sheikh Rashid of Dubai, although the United Arab Emirates holds an 18.84 per cent share in ASRY. The Dubai ruler built a three drydock complex which is not yet open. Mr. Machado Lopes said the Dubai facilities would result in over-capacity in the Gulf, although he added that the extent of any competition with ASRY would depend on the quality and cost of work at Dubai.

ASRY, which is managed by the Portuguese dockyard company of Estaleiros Navais de Lisboa, was originally designed to

eventually have three dockyards. But Mr. Machado Lopes said that due to the world market situation the second dock would almost certainly not be built this year.

IMF president due in China next week

WASHINGTON, April 10 (AP) — Membership of mainland China in the International Monetary Fund, a potential source of major financial assistance, "could come fairly soon," says a top U.S. Treasury Department official. C. Fred Bergsten, an assistant secretary of the treasury for international affairs, said in an interview. "China has indicated a desire to come in. It's likely they will come in."

He also said on Tuesday that he thinks China will take a seat in the World Bank, the IMF's sister institution, and revealed that World Bank President Robert McNamara is scheduled to visit China next week. A team of experts from the IMF travelled to China in March to discuss the membership question with Chinese leaders. The team is expected to report soon to the IMF's board of directors, which decide on China's membership.

A source in the IMF, who asked not to be identified, said he was less certain than Bergsten that China's membership will be resolved soon. He said: "This is a hell of a big country — one billion people. It will cause a very far-reaching structural change in both the IMF and World Bank."

China's participation in the two institutions would create the potential for China to borrow hundreds of millions of dollars. Such assistance would not be a certainty, however. A total of nearly \$1.5 billion in loans was authorised by the World Bank for India last year. China, with a larger population, technically would be entitled to an equal amount.

Such financial help could be vital to China in helping strengthen its economy. Per capita income of China's 1 billion people in 1977 was tentatively estimated by the World Bank at \$410.

Colby King, U.S. Executive Director to the World Bank, said he thinks China could become a member of that institution within a year. Bergsten said China's membership in the bank would strain its financial resources, already being stretched to meet the needs of its current members.

The bank lends money to members for development projects, such as irrigation, roads and energy. Its subsidiary, the International Development Association (IDA), makes interest-free loans to the world's poorest nations. It is assumed that China would qualify for IDA assistance. No additional financial resources are expected to be available to IDA or the bank in the next couple of years, so aid to China might mean less aid to other members, such as India, Bergsten said.

Qatar rejects oil price hikes

DOHA, Qatar, April 10 (AP) — A prominent Arab oil minister urged the 13-nation Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries today to avoid sharp hikes in prices that would increase inflationary pressures in the world and hurt the economies of the Arab world. Sheikh Abdul Aziz Al Thani, Qatar's minister of finance and petroleum and former president of OPEC, said his country will maintain its current production rates of crude oil and avert any price increases.

Sharp price increases could hurt the economy of the world, adversely affect the OPEC countries and the Arab world, he added. The sheikh called on the OPEC countries to prepare the right atmosphere for a unified price of crude oil before going to the next price-fixing ministerial conference on June 9 in Algiers.

Libya, Algeria and Iran reportedly have been forming their own bloc within the OPEC pressing for production cuts that would keep prices high even in the face of dwindling demand.

Tougher OPEC nations to force up oil prices: Page 6

A Kuwaiti cutback from 2 million to 1.5 million barrels a day was the biggest by any individual member of OPEC. The new Kuwaiti contracts were seen here as the forerunner of a radical switch in the pattern of international oil exporting at the expense of the major oil companies. The sheikh said Qatar was in favour of a unified floor price that would increase gradually in line with world inflation and economic growth of the industrialised countries of the West.

Sheikh Abdul Aziz said there is a glut of crude oil, nearly two mil-

lion barrels a day, in the world markets, which should account for a decline in prices by next September. By next winter, the markets will have absorbed the surplus quantities of crude and prices stand to change, he said.

Sheikh Abdul Aziz accused the multinational oil companies, the "seven sisters," of manipulating the spot market at Rotterdam, Japan, New York and elsewhere for "shameless profiteering."

Qatar and other Gulf exporters of crude oil appeared to be more in favour of government-to-government sales rather than offering their crude oil on the spot market.

Sheikh Abdul Aziz defended the U.S.-dollar as the "strongest currency" and conditionally supported using it as the continued basis for quoting oil prices. "However, if we face any enormous losses as a result of any weakness in the dollar, we might shift to some other system," the sheikh said. "We have the basket of currencies that could replace the dollar in quoting oil prices and making payments for oil purchases."

Qatar, he said, was conducting feasibility studies before harnessing its vast northwest gas reserves said to be one among the largest in the world. "Gas will be an effective substitute to oil in many ways," he said. "It's second to oil in importance, although it remains underpriced."

Informed sources said that Wintershall, a consortium of U.S. and West German oil companies holding concessions to produce crude from Qatar's northern offshore oil fields, has found large reserves of oil in the Khuff region. The discovery, these sources said, promise to considerably increase the country's proven reserves of crude oil, which stand at 5.6 billion barrels.

LONDON EXCHANGE RATE

LONDON, April 10 (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at the close of trading on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets.

One sterling	2.1865/80	U.S. dollar
One U.S. dollar	1.1792/95	Canadian dollar
	1.8875/95	West German mark
	2.0650/0700	Dutch guilder
	1.7700/30	Swiss franc
	30.25/35	Belgian franc
	4.36/37	French franc
	873.00/875.00	Italian lire
	250.50/251.00	Japanese yen
	4.4000/50	Swedish crown
	5.0930/80	Norwegian crown
	5.8810/60	Danish crown
One ounce of gold	526.00/530.00	U.S. dollars

LONDON STOCK MARKET

LONDON, April 10 (AP) — The market closed mixed after a volatile session, dealers said. At 1500 the FT Index was up 0.431.4.

Government bonds ended as much as 1/4 point higher, a favourable reaction to the U.K. banking figures prompting demand. Oils showed falls ranging to 16p after the BP chairman predicted the company's weaker trading pattern would continue into the first quarter of this year. Banks firmed while industrials were narrowly mixed.

Canadian stocks moved higher but U.S. issues ended mixed. Rascal and GKN added 5p and 4p respectively but Glaxo fell and ICI 2p. BP dipped 16p and Tricentral lost 12p. Banks, Midland up 5p and Natwest 3p stronger.

Philips Lamp followed comments from the president with a fall of 13p. Results prompted falls of 8p in Taylor Woodrow Associated Biscuit. Figures left Bowater and Lead industries unchanged but Laxbrooke 3p stronger.

Gold shares were as much as 2-1/2 dollars lower with the bull price.

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About executions of princess, lover Britain apologises to Saudis over TV film

LONDON, April 10 (R) — Britain television film about the public executions of a Saudi princess and her lover.

A Foreign Office spokesman said: "We profoundly regret any offence the programme may have caused in Saudi Arabia."

British Foreign Secretary Lord Carrington had sent a telegram expressing regret to Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Saud Al Faisal, the spokesman added.

But he denied a Daily Mail report that Saudi Arabia had threatened to cut oil supplies or reduce its big trade with this country.

The Foreign Office spokesman said the British Government had no power to interfere with television programmes or ban them.

The television film, "Death of a Princess," shown on Britain's independent television network last night, attempted to reconstruct the case of Princess Misha, executed by firing squad for adultery in November 1977, and her lover, who was beheaded.

Saudi Arabia had expressed deep concern about the film before it was screened, the Foreign Office spokesman said, and a Saudi Arabian embassy spokesman did not hide his anger. "Personally I think this film was very

offensive to the whole Saudi royal family, and to our country," he said today.

The film was made by Britain's ATV company in conjunction with television companies in Holland, the United States and West Germany, and will also be screened in Australia and New Zealand, a television spokesman said.

It attempted to reconstruct the lifestyle of Saudi Arabia's numerous princesses and gave conflicting accounts of Princess Misha's affair.

The Saudi Arabian embassy



Lord Carrington

Australia's drought threatens to cause widespread disaster

SYDNEY, April 10 (AP) — Farmers around Australia are anxiously scanning the skies and weather maps for signs of rain that will break what threatens to be the worst drought in Australia since 1902.

"This drought has all the portents of being a widespread disaster," Mr. Jack Hallam, minister for agriculture in New South Wales, Australia's most populous state, said yesterday.

"It's different to other droughts because it covers such huge areas," Mr. Hallam said after inspecting hard-hit areas. "Even if rain falls soon, the situation is critical. But if we don't get rain, it will be a national disaster."

Much of Australia's prime agricultural land has been without substantial rainfall for nine months. In some cases not enough rain has fallen to fill dams for almost three years.

Mr. Maurice Binsted, president of the Cattleman's Union, said cattlemen were facing their worst season in 50 years because of the drought and a lessening demand for Australian beef in the United States.

Some cattlemen are buying fodder from areas 465 kilometres away. Others are trucking cattle more than 1,600 kilometres to Queensland in an attempt to save their herds.

Pacific islanders regain homeland

ENIWETOK ATOLL, Marshall Islands, April 10 (R) — The people of the tiny Pacific atoll of Eniwetok have formally regained the homeland they abandoned 33 years ago to make way for the United States' development of its nuclear bombs.

U.S. Vice-Admiral Robert Morse handed back the remote atoll yesterday to more than 400 islanders shipped in from their temporary home of Ujelang in another corner of the Marshall Island group.

Most of the islanders, born after the evacuation, had never seen their ancestral homeland. Most will leave again today until a final resettlement is completed in about two months.

Most of the 40 islands in the atoll, about 2,300 miles southwest of Hawaii, will be considered permanently off limits to them. Only three of the islands are considered safe for habitation. The whole of the atoll comprises a land mass of less than three square miles.

The hand-over ceremony followed a three-year, \$100 million cleanup by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the largest operation of its kind. It involved 4,000 men from the departments of defence, interior and energy, officials said.

Vice-Admiral Morse, who headed the operation, praised the Eniwetokers for their contribution to world peace. He said the nuclear programme had helped to prevent nuclear war for three decades.

"The price for this security has been paid by the people of Eniwetok. For three years the U.S. has been working to repay this great debt to the people of Eniwetok," he said.

Iroji (Chief) Johannes Peter, an Eniwetok leader, said: "We rejoice that we have returned to our homeland."

'Tougher' OPEC nations expected to force up oil prices in line with inflation

LONDON, April 10 (R) — The tougher members of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) can be expected to continue forcing up oil prices in line with world inflation, according to Sir David Steel, chairman of British Petroleum (BP).

The head of BP, one of the world's seven major oil companies, spoke at a news conference to introduce BP's annual report, published today.

"It looks as if the tougher of the OPEC countries are determined to keep a fragile supply and demand balance and will justify keeping up the price in line with inflation," Sir David said.

He also said he did not think

that Saudi Arabia would succeed in getting OPEC to return to a unified pricing structure of the kind abandoned last year.

During last year, OPEC members scrambled to sell at varying premium prices after the revolution in Iran slashed that country's output and oil was in short supply.

This year several producers such as Kuwait, down 25 per cent to 1.5 million barrels a day, have cut output, maintaining revenues by the simple device of imposing new premiums on less oil sold under contract or, like Iran last week, raising basic prices.

Sir David disclosed that BP, which takes 125,000 barrels a day from Iran, would next weekend send executives to Tehran to dis-

cuss the \$2.50 a barrel price increase. Iran's oil is now priced at \$33.50 a barrel, plus varying premiums, compared with only \$26 a barrel charged by Saudi Arabia.

Sir David spoke at his news conference of what he called a chaotic market and of the problems faced by companies such as BP which do not, as do the U.S. partners in the Aramco consortium, have access to the cheap Saudi oil.

The Aramco partners — Exxon, Mobil, Texaco and Chevron — take the bulk of Saudi Arabia's huge 9.5 million barrels a day output, leaving the other oil "majors" BP, Gulf and Royal Dutch Shell, battling for supplies from costlier sources or on the free "spot" market.

spokesman said: "We have our own laws and our own morals which we keep to ourselves. It is difficult for anyone in England to understand the moral issues of this matter from the Saudi Arabian point of view."

Egyptian actress Suzanne Abu Taleb played the role of Princess Misha in the film, made by controversial director Anthony Thomas.

A spokesman for the television company said: "The Saudis thought this programme offensive to public feeling in their country and insulting to Saudi Arabians in general. I could not agree with their point of view."

Britain very much hoped that the film would not affect its excellent and highly valued relations with Saudi Arabia, the Foreign Office spokesman said.

The British ambassador in Jeddah, Mr. James Craig, interrupted a holiday in France to return to his post, carrying a government letter of regret to Prince Saud, the spokesman said.

Britain has long been discussing with Saudi Arabia the case of a British surgeon's wife, Mrs. Penelope Arnot, who has been sentenced to 80 lashes in public for breaking strict Saudi laws banning alcohol.

This is the second time that the case of Princess Misha has strained relations between Britain and Saudi Arabia. After her story came to light, the British Foreign Office issued a statement expressing regret and, describing the executions as a tragedy, but Britain later made an official apology for these comments, and Dr. David Owen, then foreign secretary, was accused of grovelling.

seeking several billion dollars cash aid or debt postponement over the next few years from Western governments who look for the IMF's seal of approval on a country's creditworthiness.

Although the IMF team is due to remain in Turkey for two weeks, it is expected to send an informal report to the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) before the industrialised nations meet for a "pledging session" on aid to Turkey in Paris on April 15.

An original pledging session two weeks ago broke up without a jointly-announced pledge after Japan, Canada, Sweden and Switzerland declined to name the exact sum of their pledges, according to OECD sources.

West German Finance Minister Hans Ehard, named as a special coordinator on aid for Turkey, assured the Turks after the meeting that the OECD assistance would be forthcoming, promising that it would be more than the \$960 million granted Turkey last year.

Turkey's chief economic planner, Mr. Turgut Ozal, told reporters this week he expected \$1-1.2 billion from the OECD this year and a similar figure next year.

Mr. Ozal also said Turkey hoped its Western creditors would agree to postpone a total of \$3.5 billion of Turkish debts over the next five years to help ease the economic crisis, the worst in modern Turkish history.

Economists say the crisis has been exacerbated by the short-term loan-seeking policy of the previous Demirel government of 1975 to 1977.

Giving above-market interest rates to short-term creditors but unable to pay them back, this policy has left Turkey with an \$18 billion external debt burden, without counting interest.

If they can stick to their self-imposed timetable, something they have rarely managed in the past, a sea law convention could be completed.

This would leave only a formal signing ceremony to be arranged some time next year in Caracas, where the conference, the most ambitious undertaking of its kind in diplomatic history, held its first substantive session in 1974.

Many delegates believe, however, that after the Geneva round, at least one additional session will be needed to solve remaining problems and come up with a final document.

One prominent delegate, from Canada, said recently: "What we have at this moment... is something like 98 per cent of the job done, and that is no small achievement."

But, he cautioned, the remaining two per cent was like "the top of Everest — we haven't got there and we could slide right down the face of it if we can't finish off those

Andean Pact agrees to take some of Cubans crammed in embassy

LIMA, April 10 (R) — The Andean Pact countries agreed here today to give asylum to some of the 10,000 Cubans crammed in Peru's embassy in Havana.

The decision was taken after the Andean foreign ministers held a ten-hour emergency meeting. The joint statement denounced Cuba for creating the problem and demanded that President Fidel Castro's government find a solution.

Afterwards, Peruvian Foreign Minister Amaro Garcia said Peru would grant asylum to 1,000 Cubans. He confirmed that the other Andean countries — Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador and Venezuela — had agreed to take an unspecified number of Cubans, although the figures would be announced later.

Spanish Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs Carlos Robles Piquer indicated here that Spain would offer homes to some of the would-be emigrants.

The refugees began flooding into the embassy

six days ago after Cuba withdrew its guards from the building in a row over violent attempts by asylum-seeking Cubans and Peru's apparent sympathy with them.

The refugees, who are living in appalling conditions in the embassy's grounds, have appealed to Spain, the United States, Peru and other Latin American countries for entry visas.

President Castro has said the refugees are free to go once other countries offer them visas.

The United States has said the problem is one to be resolved by South American countries.

All the pact countries were represented by their foreign ministers except Colombia. Deputy Foreign Minister Julio Londono told reporters his chief, Mr. Diego Uribe, had stayed in Bogota because of the Dominican Republic embassy siege there. Guerrillas are holding 20 hostages in the mission.

Spain often attends pact meetings as an observer.

U.S. envoys end Greece, Turkey tour

ATHENS, Greece, April 10 (AP) — A group of U.S. senators ended a fact-finding tour of Greece and Turkey today, and one of the senators said he was optimistic that a solution could be found to Greek-Turkish differences.

At an airport press conference prior to departure, Senator Joseph Biden Democrat, Delaware said: "In our view it is important in the interests of both nations, our nation and the entire West that there be a solution to the problems between the two countries."

He said the Senate delegation had come to gather facts "so that we would be better equipped to respond and possibly to initiate actions in the U.S. Senate with regard to what we view as the common interests of both our nations."

Mr. Biden, who spoke on behalf of accompanying Senators Howard Baker (Republican, Tennessee), Edward Zorinsky (Democrat, Nebraska) and Thad Cochran (Republican, Mississippi), said that their contacts with government and opposition leaders in both Greece and Turkey had been cordial. He said they felt that the reintegration of

Greece into NATO was important and that "we will find a way in order to accommodate the legitimate interests of both countries and in turn to strengthen the Western alliance."

Greece withdrew from the military wing of NATO in 1974 in the wake of the Turkish invasion of Cyprus, and negotiations for full reintegration have so far

failed.

Mr. Biden said that he believed the outcome of the Cyprus problem and Greek-Turkish relations will be an issue in the forthcoming U.S. elections, to the extent that foreign policy and the cohesion of NATO are concerned. "The failure to resolve the situation in Cyprus obviously impacts upon that," he said.

Belgian king meets with leaders following government's resignation

BRUSSELS, April 10 (R) — King Baudouin today met political leaders in an attempt to find a government able to resolve Belgium's language dispute, the seemingly insoluble issue that has caused many Belgian administrations to founder.

The king has been sounding out the country's leading political figures, including ex-premier Leo Tindemans, before naming one to hold detailed talks with the country's main political parties on forming a new government.

The monarch yesterday accepted the resignation of Premier Wilfried Martens' centre-left

administration. The premier was toppled by the votes of six senators from his own Flemish Social Christian Party (CVP) against part of the regional self-government bill which formed the cornerstone of his administration's programme.

Mr. Tindemans, the party president, still wields immense influence in the country and his differences with the premier are seen by political commentators as being at the root of the crisis.

All parties agree they want to avoid new elections. The last, in December 1978, changed little, and it took more than three months of talks before Mr. Martens took the premiership, his first ministerial post.

Differences over the language issue have led to the fall of most governments since 1968. Formally, the parties are agreed that Dutch-speaking Flanders, French-speaking Wallonia and officially bilingual but mainly Francophone Brussels will form three semi-autonomous regions.

The Belgians long ago gave up trying to live in a single, centrally-run state, but some among the more numerous Flemings fear the three-region concept could give back to French-speakers the dominance they once had.

Meanwhile, Mr. Martens continues as caretaker premier of a lame-duck government unable to see through a much needed economic austerity programme. Unemployment is among the worst in the European community and inflation, though low at 6.5 per cent, is rising.

U.N. Sea Law Conference nears its goal

By Anthony Goodman

UNITED NATIONS — The United Nations Law of the Sea Conference, after more than six years' intensive bargaining, has finally drawn within sight of its goal: an all-embracing set of rules governing use and exploitation of the world's oceans.

The final text could come this summer when representatives of some 150 countries that have just completed a five-week session in New York meet again in Geneva, from July 28 to Aug. 29.

If they can stick to their self-imposed timetable, something they have rarely managed in the past, a sea law convention could be completed.

This would leave only a formal signing ceremony to be arranged some time next year in Caracas, where the conference, the most ambitious undertaking of its kind in diplomatic history, held its first substantive session in 1974.

Many delegates believe, however, that after the Geneva round, at least one additional session will be needed to solve remaining problems and come up with a final document.

One prominent delegate, from Canada, said recently: "What we have at this moment... is something like 98 per cent of the job done, and that is no small achievement."

But, he cautioned, the remaining two per cent was like "the top of Everest — we haven't got there and we could slide right down the face of it if we can't finish off those

remaining issues." Until the last comma has been put in place, none of the provisions of the convention, comprising more than 300 articles and several annexes, will have any force.

The document is being negotiated as a package deal, with countries trading off concessions in one area for advantages in another.

The conference has made progress through closed-door bargaining in numerous groups dealing with various aspects of sea law.

The main result of the recent session, from March 3 to April 4, was a new revision of a document called the "Informal Composite Negotiating Text" (ICNT), on which the bargaining has been based.

Guiding philosophy

The guiding philosophy behind the conference was spelled out in a 1970 General Assembly resolution which declared that the sea-bed and ocean floor beyond the limits of national jurisdiction, including their resources, are the "common heritage of mankind."

Among the basic provisions of the proposed international convention are a 12-nautical-mile territorial sea, over which states exercise sovereignty, and a 200-nautical-mile Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ), in which they enjoy sovereignty for the purpose of exploiting and managing natural resources, including fish and minerals.

Where a state's continental shelf extends beyond 200 miles, it will exercise similar rights over any non-living resources.

One of the achievements of the recent session was to draw closer to a definition of the boundary of the continental shelf.

A new body, called the International Sea Bed Authority, will

be responsible for the sea bed beyond national jurisdiction — the area of the oceans to be developed for the benefit of mankind as a whole.

At stake are millions of tons of potato-shaped rocks scattered over the deepest ocean bottom and containing commercially exploitable cobalt, copper, manganese and nickel.

Much of the conference has been devoted to establishing a mining system for recovering these polymetallic nodules, often referred to as manganese nodules.

It is referred to as a "parallel system" because the International Sea Bed Authority, which is to regulate all mining, would be authorised both to conduct its own operations and to enable private and state ventures to contract for mining rights.

While the riches of the deep sea bed are regarded as belonging to all mankind, it is generally acknowledged that without the capital and technical resources of private companies, there would be no ocean mining for many years to come.

The conference has, therefore, had to wrestle with many of the problems that have troubled relations between the industrialised countries of the northern hemisphere and the poorer countries of the southern half of the globe.

Many of the latter see the sea law convention as a step toward a long-sought new economic order.

Unsettled issues

Issues affecting deep sea mining that still remain to be settled include how to ensure that the Sea Bed Authority will have access to the technology it needs while at the same time limiting the obligations of industrialised countries and their firms to transfer such technology.

World News Briefs

MIAMI, April 10 (R) — A gunman who hijacked an American Airlines Boeing 727 from California to Cuba yesterday gave no clue to his motive, according to the airliner's crew. The hijacker, who was armed with a .45 calibre pistol, was taken into custody by Cuban authorities immediately after the aircraft landed in Havana. It was no immediate information on his fate. An FBI spokesman debriefed the airliner's seven-member crew when they arrived in Miami said the man gave no reason for wanting to go to Cuba. It was very tactful throughout the flight, the spokesman said. The hijacker, a black man in his 30s, took control of the airline at Ontario airport near Los Angeles. The plane carried the gunman and his crew of seven. According to an airlines spokesman, the hijacker had jumped a fence at the airport and boarded the jetliner as the crew was preparing to take on passengers for a scheduled flight to Chicago.

BERLIN, April 10 (AP) — A Belgian woman employed as a secretary at the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) headquarters in Brussels has defected to East Germany, the East German news agency ADN reported yesterday. The woman, identified as Verrept, applied for political asylum yesterday, the agency said. Defection was prompted by her "awareness of the dangers of NATO policies," ADN said, adding she had access to "many hundreds of secret plans" at the Western military alliance offices. The agency said she worked as a secretary in NATO's international secretariat in Brussels. She presented herself to East German officials Tuesday and asked for asylum on grounds of conscience. Among the secret plans she knew about were "measures of the nuclear planning group to 'modernise' NATO medium-range nuclear weapons on the battle scene," the agency said.

HAGFORS, Sweden, April 10 (R) — The Soviet Union exploded a nuclear device underground today at the Semipalatinsk test site in western Siberia, the Swedish National Defence Research Institute reported. It was the second test there this week but only the second Soviet test this year, an observatory spokesman said. "It is quite remarkable. Usually they are well along in their programme in January," the spokesman said.

KYOTO, Japan, April 10 (R) — President Carter's breaking of atomic relations with Iran will have little immediate effect on a world energy situation, Dr. Ulf Lantzke, head of the Paris International Energy Agency (IEA), said here today. Dr. Lantzke told reporters at the sixth international conference on the natural gas that the split between Washington and Tehran might lead to some nervousness among consumers, but he detected no panic yet. "I wouldn't expect immediate consequences for the energy situation," he said, citing the adjustments made around the world since Iranian oil production was cut back last year, plus high stockpiles and weakened demand because of higher prices.

LONDON, April 10 (R) — The British Amateur Fencing Association has reversed its stand and will send a team to the Olympics in Mexico this summer. The association's governing body last February overwhelmingly boycotted the Olympics, in retaliation for the intervention in Afghanistan. But last night, following a poll members showing a majority in favour of participating in the games, the governing body took a new vote and decided to send a British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher has urged British athletes not to attend the games, in strong support of President Carter's boycott policy. The fencers' new decision leaves only the hockey and equestrian teams supporting the boycott, although swimming and yachting associations have yet to make their decision.

NAKURU, Kenya, April 10 (R) — The presidents of Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda and the Sudan met at Mombasa next Monday to discuss matters affecting the four countries, Kenya's President Daniel Arap Moi announced here yesterday. President Moi, who is visiting Nakuru, 160 kilometres west of Nairobi, gave further details about the Mombasa summit. But informed sources here said it was a continuation of the contacts begun in January by the presidents of Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda met in Arusha, northern Tanzania. President Jafar nimeiri of Sudan had expected to attend the Arusha meeting, but was unable to do so at that time, the sources said. The Arusha meeting was the first kind to take place since 1970. No East African summit meeting place during the rule of Ugandan dictator Idi Amin, from 1971 to 1979.

TOKYO, April 10 (AP) — Koharu Kodaira, Japan's eldest widow of natural causes today at her home in Horokanai, Hokkaido, Japan's northernmost main island. She was 109. She was born Totsukawa, Nara, western Japan in 1871 and was survived by children, 54 grandchildren, 140 great-grandchildren and 99 great-great-grandchildren. She was made an honorary resident of Hokkaido in recognition of her longevity on her 109th birthday March 29.

U.N. Sea Law Conference nears its goal

Another knotty problem is how to ensure that sea bed mineral extraction does not harm land-based products of the same minerals.

This and the question of financing the authority's own mining operations have given rise to complex formulas on which agreement remains to be reached.

Arrangements for modifying the mining system, should there be dissatisfaction with it after some 20 years' experience, have not yet been settled.

Disagreement persists, too, over the voting system in the Sea Bed Authority's 36-member council, which is to play an important role in regulating mining operations.

The conference has been exploring ways of giving special interest groups — such as sea bed miners, mineral producers and consumers, and certain developing countries — a special role, and perhaps a blocking vote in the council, without abandoning the principle of majority rule in a geographically representative body.

Boundaries issue

The one major area where no progress was recorded at the recent session was on the principles to be followed in drawing boundaries between the overlapping exclusive economic zones or continental shelves of nearby states.

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Some delegations favour drawing a line equidistant between the

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